

SRIA

Suggested Discussion Document 2

So far, we have touched on the numbers of the first grade, the philosophers and religions and now we can concentrate on the more modern era- although of course, there are links all the way through. It might be well to follow through in date and time order to begin with.

Discussion about Egypt – either in it's mathematics or the Isis/Osiris religion could well touch on Alexander the Great, whose teacher was Aristotle. His legacy, the City of Alexandria in Egypt (one of 11 so named cities in the world) would give birth to many famous and important philosophers and scientists. It was also witness to the depths of human depravity and ignorance. A Christian mob tore the astronomer, mathematician, musician and philosopher, Hypatia, from her chariot in the middle of the city, ripped of her clothes and cut her to death with hundreds of incisions by small, sharp shells. Bishop Clementine burned hundreds of books at the Temple of the Muses (the Museum) in the Forth Century, the beginning of the religion's bigoted view of learning and advancement.

We could continue that gnarled view of religion down the centuries, first attacking the Gnostic's, then freezing out the Greek Orthodox Church at the Conclave of Nicea. On to the Cathars and the Templars, not to mention the Jews (The Cid in the 800s; Isabel in 1492 and the great pogroms throughout Europe during the 14th Century). The Inquisition followed with attacks on Gallileo and Copernicus, continuing with hatred of the Rosicrucian's. Was famous Roman Catholic Rene Descartes a Rosicrucian? What was his hidden philosophy? Why did the Church hate the Rosicrucian's? Then a short history of Rosicrucianism – or at least the beginnings.

This of course leads on to the history of Rosicrucianism and the *Fama* and *Confessio*. We might mention that the instruction given to Brother CR at Fez included **Qabalah**. Then we go on to examine a little about the **books of Kabbala**, - the oral tradition and when they were written down – and why. What they intended to achieve and how Freemasonry developed through Rosicrucianism from their ideas and ideals.

We might then be led on to study the **Sephir Yetzirah** and the 10 spheres and 22 paths of the Tree of Life. Later perhaps the books of

the **Zohar** and the **Bahir**. We could discuss the Tarot and right and left-hand paths with their Connections to Kabbala and Freemasonry. We could then lead into Mysticism and why the books of Kabbala have 14 different words of Meditation, the whole point of Mysticism.

We could talk about the connection of Mysticism with Freemasonry and Rosicrucianism for although SRIA does not encourage Masonic papers, nevertheless, both Rosicrucianism and Freemasonry are inextricably bound together – not only in the SRIA's method of recruitment. If Freemasonry and Rosicrucianism are found to be linked very closely, there is sure no reason not to study either.

The study of Plato's spheres in an earlier discussion, or Pythagoras's elements – or Aristotle's fifth element, the Quint - essence could lead us to Alchemy, which would lead us to studies of the scientists and Mystics of the 15th, 16th, and 17th Centuries.

I have drawn up a tree of Connections similar to the Tree of Life so that the members can choose which discussions they wish to take part in from one sphere to another along one of the paths. These paths can allow them to take part in a discussion or a paper, which will allow them to move onto the next paper.

These Questions have been devised to point your researches in the right direction. Although evident enthusiasm for our studies is a certain recommendation for advancement to a higher Grade, answers by you are not compulsory, but may be given to the College Co-ordinator of Studies or the Provincial Co-ordinator of Studies for comments.

The Provincial Co-ordinator of Studies.

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